

## **Our Lifestyle - Our Commitment to Life and biblically define Moral living**

Shepherd of the Mountains believes it is God's desire is for us to become like Jesus. Through faith in Jesus Christ we are born again as new creations. By the work of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in us and we live in him, so that day by day we are transformed into the image of God's Son. This life-long process of sanctification is not complete until the dawn of God's eternal kingdom. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:28-30, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 2:10). We believe that God is not going to stop His work within us until His faithfulness has completed His work (Philippians 1:6). We as Jesus followers are committed to living a biblical lifestyle as we trust God's grace for guidance, forgiveness, and power to honor Jesus in all we are and do.

Shepherd of the Mountains recognizes and acknowledges that we give witness to God's truth and presence by being committed to living a transformed life. We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and well-being of their fellow men and women; that a Jesus follower's conduct should be blameless before the world; that he or she should be a faithful steward of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize to God's glory and for the sake of others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 2:14-16; Colossians 3:17-23; I Thessalonians 5:17, 18).

We believe that a Holy God is our ultimate source of moral living. We believe that Jesus is not only our Savior but our Lord. We believe that God is the source of truth, a foundation for living, and the ultimate source of accountability for the choices we make in life. We embrace a God-focused frame of reference for life and seek to live our lives according to God's design. Having Jesus as Lord shapes our worldview. A worldview is a vision FOR life (not just a vision OF life). It gives a lens to interpret the world and is prescriptive for the world in that it provides the community with its most foundational values and norms. Our Lord Jesus is the ultimate source of reference wherein we find ourselves revealed. The Gospel is a response to the questions of who we are, what we may hope for, how we may aspire to act, what endures, what is important, what is of true value. Following Jesus, does not merely change the way we worship...it changes the way we play, work, buy, sell, love, do life.

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139) The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. For purposes of Shepherd of the Mountains, our faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, is overseen by our Ministry Board and Elders in accordance with our Congregation's Constitution, Statement of Faith and Bylaws.

Shepherd of the Mountains embraces a biblical definition of marriage. Shepherd of the Mountains believes that God's design in marriage is for one man and one woman. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25, Ephesians 5:21-33). The Bible tells us that marriage is a "living testimony" and vivid picture of Jesus' love for His Body, the Church and His people, you and me. We also believe in gender differentiation and identity in maleness and femaleness (as consistently identified through scripture and historical, Christian belief and practice). These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27).